

libby-toxicity

1260886 - R8 SDMS



Fw: Issue about location of Oct 6 listening session on Libby amphibole asbestos toxicity values

Elizabeth Southerland to: David Bussard, Sonya Pennock, Carol Campbell

08/09/2011 02:03 PM

Cc: Helen Dawson

Wanted you to see what I sent on to Betsaida.....

----- Forwarded by Elizabeth Southerland/DC/USEPA/US on 08/09/2011 04:01 PM -----

From: Elizabeth Southerland/DC/USEPA/US
To: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 08/09/2011 04:00 PM
Subject: Issue about location of Oct 6 listening session on Libby amphibole asbestos toxicity values

Betsaida, I just talked to Mathy Stanislaus and Lisa Feldt about whether we should hold the October 6 ORD listening session on the Libby amphibole asbestos toxicity values in Libby or in Washington D.C. Mathy and Lisa are uncomfortable holding such a meeting in Libby because they believe it will confuse the community into expecting EPA will also be able to announce at that meeting a change in EPA's estimates of the current risks from living in Libby. When we talked to the community in May, we were very clear that our estimates of health risks are calculated using both the toxicity values and the exposure data. We promised them that this summer we would do new sampling of activities both indoors and outdoors in order to improve the exposure data. Region 8 is conducting that new sampling now, but the results will not be available until months after October 6. Mathy and Lisa are concerned that if we hold the national listening session on October 6 in Libby, the community will expect that we will also present the new exposure data and the new risk estimates. The community will be very frustrated to find instead that it is just a listening session for other scientists to present their recommendations on how ORD should change the non-cancer and cancer toxicity values. There will be no discussions at such a listening session regarding risk estimates from living in Libby. Consequently, OSWER recommends that the listening session be held in Washington D.C. and that the Region proceed with their original plan to set up a phone link to the listening session in Libby.

We can discuss this issue further with ORD and the Region, but I wanted to pass on OSWER views on the listening session location. Give me a call if you want to discuss this.